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NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECTROSCOPE FOR THE 36-INCH
EQUATORIAL.

The present star-spectroscope of the 36-inch equatorial was designed for visual observations only. The work of Messrs. KEELER and CAMPBELL has shown it to be entirely satisfactory in this kind of observation. Mr. CAMPBELL's photographic spectroscopy has been done so far by simply replacing its eyepiece by a small camera. But the construction of the instrument does not give enough stability to allow of long-continued photographic exposures. In such cases flexure must be provided against by setting the whole optical train rigidly within a trussed beam of some sort, either as designed by Prof. VOGEL at Potsdam, or by Professors HALE and KEELER at Chicago and Allegheny. Professor CAMPBELL has worked out plans of this sort, and Mr. D. O. MILLS of New York, a member of this Society, has generously provided the necessary money to carry out the plans. The instrument will be built by Mr. BRASHEAR, and it is expected to have it at work during the present summer.

E. S. H.

VEGETATION OF THE SUMMIT OF MT. HAMILTON.

Prof. EDWARD LEE GREENE has written a paper on the vegetation of the summit of Mt. Hamilton, based on a botanical survey made by him in 1891, and on the examination of collections of dried plants made here by C. T. BLAKE, Esq., and by Miss MILDRED HOLDEN. A list of 212 species is given in the paper, with descriptions of the new ones. The article is printed in Vol. I, No. 4 of the new journal, *Erythea*, edited by the members of the Department of Botany of the University of California.

E. S. H.

CHANGES IN *NOVA AURIGÆ*.

The *Nova* was observed for brightness in the 36-inch telescope and 4-inch finder on March 25. It was estimated to be 0.2 magnitude brighter than in November, and about 0.5 magnitude brighter than in August. The nebulosity has increased to a remarkable degree since August. Two wholly inexperienced observers were called in to state which of the half-dozen stars in the field was nebulous. They selected the *Nova* almost instantly, though it was only a few degrees from the Moon. W. W. C.